



Utah

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CALENDAR

JUNE 18

- H2H Employment Assistance Workshop

SEPTEMBER 7

- 419th Fighter Wing Employer Appreciation Day

SEPTEMBER 10

- ESGR Utah Military Advisory Council Meeting

ON THE WEB

NEWS

- <http://bit.ly/O6dClv>

NEWSLETTERS

- <http://bit.ly/r46EvV>

FLICKR

- <http://bit.ly/eQooPP>

TWITTER

- @UT_ESGR

Message from ESGR Utah Chairman Bart Davis

Spring Brings Fresh Start for ESGR Utah

Spring is finally here. The grass is green and beautiful flowers are decorating the landscape. There is something about a new season—with it comes a fresh start, renewed energy, and commitment.

This spring has brought a revitalized feeling to ESGR Utah. We have already reached over 85 percent of our annual Statements of Support goal, and we just completed a very successful awards banquet and training event. Several outstanding volunteers were recognized for their efforts, and two of the state's exceptional businesses, Alpine Home Medical and Zions Bank, received the Pro Patria award for support of their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. We have also had two very productive "Hiring Our Heroes" events.

Our relationship with the many units throughout Utah has never been better thanks to the great work of the volunteers who spend many hours visiting and briefing employers, Servicemembers, and families.

We are also enjoying many successes with the great patriot employers who are finding real

value in hiring our veterans and serving Guardmembers and Reservists. All in all, due to our Hero 2 Hired program, solid and dedicated full-time support staff, and dedicated volunteers, we are having a very good year and will be able to more than meet our goals for the year and still be able to enjoy the summer with friends and family.

I wish you all a wonderful summer.



ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. Its mission is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflicts through mediation.



HIRING OUR HEROES

SALT LAKE CITY

Audrey Thompson, right, of USAA, greets a jobseeker at the Hiring Our Heroes job fair April 17 at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City. Hundreds of employers met hundreds of veteran applicants looking for work.

Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair, Summit Helps Utah Veterans

By Lt. Col. Hank McIntire

SALT LAKE CITY – Jobseekers and employers met at the Salt Palace Convention Center April 17 for the second ‘Hiring Our Heroes’ job fair this year. The event doubled as Utah Governor Gary Herbert’s annual jobs summit.

The purpose of these fairs is to assist veterans and their spouses to find or upgrade their employment.

Sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the event was a combined effort of several organizations to include the Utah Veterans and Military Employment Coalition, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, the Salt Lake Chamber

of Commerce, Utah Department of Veterans Affairs and Utah Department of Workforce Services.

“The challenges faced by spouses and children are many times greater than those of the Soldier,” said Brig. Gen. Dallen Attack, assistant adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, at the opening ceremony of the fair. “We understand that not all patriots wear uniforms. I can’t think of a time that we have received so much support from the civilian population of our nation as now.”

Terry Schow, who also spoke at the ceremony, reminded attendees of “the responsibility of our community to pull together to help those folks in need.”

“If we don’t do anything else here,” Schow continued, “we hope to help you understand the

tremendous resources that are available. If we get a veteran plugged into that system, we can have a great impact.”

Naturally, the job fair was to pair up employers with job applicants, but the event was also intended to help veterans learn about benefits and services that will help them with education, employment, and other services.

Jeanie Ereckson, a senior director for Webster University, was there to provide information to jobseekers on educational opportunities.

“[Our Servicemembers] have sacrificed so much; they need to get back into the groove,” said Ereckson. “The things they learned in the military really do cross over, and they are very marketable skills. They can apply them and help society as a whole.”

Freedom Award Finalist
Zions Bank
Nominated for
National Award

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense office, announced 30 employers as finalists for the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the DoD's highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve. A review board comprised of military and civilian leaders selected the top 30 employers from a pool of 2,899 nominations submitted earlier this year by National Guard and Reserve Service members.

Freedom Award finalists, of which Zions Bank of Salt Lake City is one, distinguish themselves by implementing both formal policies and

informal initiatives that go above and beyond in assisting and encouraging National Guard and Reserve service. The 2013 finalists offered such gestures of support as creating veteran mentoring programs for service members transitioning to civilian life, offering flexible scheduling to allow Guardsmen and Reservists to attend to military tasks during business hours, and hosting an internal website accessible to deployed employees and their families so they could more easily keep in touch and see messages of support from their co-workers.

The 2013 Freedom Award finalists demonstrate the type of outstanding support our National Guard and Reserve Service members count on when answering the nation's call to serve," said ESGR National Chair James G. Rebholz. "These employers recognize the valuable role

they play in the lives of our Citizen Warriors; and in supporting these men and women, the finalists have made a critical contribution to our national security. On behalf of ESGR and the DoD, I want to thank each of the 2013 finalists for their extraordinary support."

A national selection board of senior DoD officials, business leaders and prior awardees will select 15 Freedom Award recipients, which will be announced early this summer. The 2013 recipients will be honored at the 18th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony in Washington, D.C. on September 26, 2013. Past recipients of the Freedom Award have met privately with the President and Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

FREEDOM
AWARD
WASHINGTON

The Freedom Award is the Department of Defense's highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve.



Annual Awards



ALPINE HOME MEDICAL GIVEN PRO PATRIA RECOGNITION

SALT LAKE CITY

Alpine Home Medical's Jay Broadbent, left, Sgt. Bryan Lopez, center, of Echo Company, I-211th Aviation, and Jeff Dawson receive the Pro Patria Award April 26 at the ESGR Utah Annual Conference April 26-27.

ZIONS BANK RECEIVES PRO PATRIA AWARD

SALT LAKE CITY

Receiving the Pro Patria Award April 26, the highest honor bestowed by a state ESGR committee, for Zions Bank were Rob Brough, left, Capt. Rhett Rampton, of Headquarters, I-211th Aviation, and Jacob Heugly.



More Annual Awards

SEVEN SEALS AWARD

SALT LAKE CITY

Tia Korologos, center, of ESI Management Group, received the Seven Seals Award from Bart Davis, left, and Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton April 26 at the ESGR Utah Annual Awards Conference.



SEVEN SEALS AWARDS

SALT LAKE CITY

Liz Atisme, second from left, and Ken Wade, second from right, received the Seven Seals Award for their tireless service in support of military members and their civilian employers. Bart Davis, left, and Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton presented the awards April 26.

More Annual Awards



SEVEN SEALS, OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARDS

SALT LAKE CITY

Mark Holland, center, received the Outstanding Performance Award, and Jeff Tiede, right, received the Seven Seals Award April 26 at the ESGR Utah Annual Awards Conference.

SEVEN SEALS AWARDS

SALT LAKE CITY

ESGR Utah volunteers Jim Slade, left, and David Gunn, second from left, received the Seven Seals Award at the Annual Conference April 26. Also pictured are Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, Utah Guard adjutant general, second from right, and Sidney Cardon.





More Annual Awards

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE

SALT LAKE CITY

Sidney Cardon, center, received the Outstanding Volunteer Service Award April 26 at the ESGR Utah Annual Conference. Bart Davis, left, and Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton presented the award to Cardon.



OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE

SALT LAKE CITY

Shirlayne George, right, also received the Outstanding Volunteer Service Award April 26. Bart Davis presented her the honor for her many years of devoted service to those in uniform and their civilian employers.

Out & About



SALT PALACE CONVENTION CENTER

SALT LAKE CITY

Dan Hayes, center, manager of the Salt Palace Convention Center and the South Towne Expo Center, received the Seven Seals Award April 17 for his continued support to the Hiring Our Heroes job fairs held at those locations. Kim Watts, left, and Mark Harrison presented the awards to Hayes.

OGDEN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

OGDEN

Mark Adams, CEO of Ogden Regional Medical Center, signed a statement of support May 15, presented to him by ESGR Utah's Kay Hargis.





More Out & About

OGDEN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

OGDEN

Kim Tyler, center, receives the Patriot Award May 15 from ESGR Utah's Kay Hargis, second from left. Tyler was nominated by Megan West, right. Her husband, 2nd Lt. Ben West, left, of Headquarters, 1457th Engineer Battalion, was also present at the ceremony.



SEVEN SEALS AWARD

SALT LAKE CITY

Terry Schow, left, director of the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs, received the Seven Seals Award April 26 for his service to those who wear the uniform. Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton was on hand for the presentation.





Tips & Info

How ESGR Can Help

ESGR understands the unique talents and skill set Guard and Reserve Service-members can bring to the civilian workforce. To make this arrangement work, both parties must be aware of their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). ESGR is here to help! With an ESGR committee in each state, territory and the District of Columbia, there is an ESGR representative able to help you forge a stronger bond with your supervisor through a greater understanding of your military service.

As part of our outreach efforts, ESGR offers employer programs such as Bosslifts, employer briefings and job fairs in your local area. Visit the event page to see if there is some-thing near you.

There are ways to say "thanks for your military service," and ways to say "thanks for your support." ESGR offers a Statement of Support program where employers can sign a pledge to support the military service of their employees. Simultaneously, ESGR offers a progressive awards program so you can nominate a supportive supervisor or employer for sup-

port that goes above and beyond what is required by law.

Our hope is by creating a culture in which all American employers value the military service of their employees, we will limit any issues between employers and Servicemembers. When issues do arise, ESGR offers free, neutral mediation and information on what the law requires.

State/Local Contacts

Local ESGR representatives are available to assist you in ESGR-related matters that do not require intervention between an employer and Servicemember.

Phone numbers, fax numbers and e-mail addresses are provided for ESGR-related issues only. We request that companies do not use this information for solicitation purposes out of consideration for our volunteers.

If you have a question about USERRA or your rights and responsibilities, we encourage you to call us at 1-800-336-4590 so we can fully discuss your question/situation and quickly answer the question or provide resolution assistance. The Customer Service Center is available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern time), Monday - Friday.

KEY CONTACTS

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Newsletter Submissions

Please send articles and photos to hank.mcintire@gmail.com.